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Archive Number 20100812.2764

Published Date 12-AUG-2010

Subject PRO/AH/EDR> Anthrax, livestock, wildlife - USA (02): (TX) human susp

ANTHRAX, LIVESTOCK, WILDLIFE - USA (02): (TEXAS) HUMAN SUSPECTED

A ProMED-mail post

<<http://www.promedmail.org>>

ProMED-mail is a program of the
International Society for Infectious Diseases
<<http://www.isid.org>>

[1] Kinney County: cervid

[2] Edwards County: cervid, human, suspected

[1] Kinney County: cervid

Date: Thu 12 Aug 2010

From: Martin Hugh-Jones <promed@promedmail.org> [edited]

On Fri 6 Aug 2010, the TVMDL [Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratories] at College Station confirmed anthrax in a white tail deer in from a ranch near Brackettville, Kinney County. On Mon 9 Aug 2010 I spoke with the veterinarian who had submitted the spleen from a dead deer brought in by one of his clients. The ranch is nearby with 2000 acres [809 ha] and an 8 ft [2.5 m] fence. The animal was freshly dead. How many others were affected is unclear but it would not have been singular as such pens are routinely overstocked.

The veterinarian said that he had seen typically affected dead deer on another ranch, also 2000 acres and high fenced but with exotic deer, which is on the road between Brackettville and his home, clearly not too far out of town.

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Martin Hugh-Jones
ProMED-mail Animal Disease Moderator
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[2] Edwards County: cervid, human, suspected

Date: Thu 12 Aug 2010

From: Martin Hugh-Jones <promed@promedmail.org> [edited]

Yesterday morning, 11 Aug 2010, I had a call from a very sick cowboy who was sitting in the Walmart parking lot in Dell Rio waiting to pick up his prescription of doxycycline. He was worried and had been given my name. 4 weeks before he had shot an axis deer on an exotics ranch in Carta Valley and skinned it. 10 days later he developed a vesicle on his right forearm; the arm became inflamed, swollen, and painful; he was groggy and "sick"; and latterly a gland was painfully enlarged on the right side of his neck. The original lesion wasn't painful but itched, and had begun to ulcerate. He had gone to the emergency room at the town hospital but they sent him on his way after taking a blood sample. I told him to pick up his prescription immediately, start taking the pills, and go see his family doctor. From what he said it was to me a presumptive cutaneous anthrax.

He said that he is a ranch hand on the Carta Valley ranch and that there are plenty of biting flies on the ranch. It is a 2000 acre [809 ha] high fenced ranch with exotic deer. As many as possible of these expensive animals had been vaccinated earlier this year [2010]. The axis deer he skinned had not appeared to be ill when shot. So if it is anthrax -- his family doctor is "running tests" but is reluctant to put him on

ciprofloxacin until he has laboratory confirmation because of the risks involved with that drug -- he would have got it from a fly bite from sick/dead stock elsewhere in the valley.

We were out there 3 weeks ago visiting with ranchers and on various wildlife ranches to the east and west of Carta Valley, sampling and GPSing the dead deer and other species. Some mildly affected, others severely. Some of these ranchers have expensive tastes in what they stock their ranches with, whether or not the species are ecologically appropriate. From what we were told and not told I suspect that some 20 deer and exotic ranches in eastern Val Verde, Kinney, Edwards, and western Uvalde counties have suffered anthrax cases this summer [2010] so far. A not untypical scenario for the western half of the Edwards Plateau.

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[The state of Texas can be found on the HealthMap/ProMED-mail interactive map at <<http://healthmap.org/r/00WR>>. The counties mentioned can be seen on the map of the state at <<http://www.digital-topo-maps.com/county-map/texas-county-map.gif>>. Edwards Plateau can be seen on the map at <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/united_states/texas_2002.jpg>. - Sr.Tech.Ed.MJ]

[see also:

Anthrax, livestock, wildlife - USA: (TX) [20100702.2204](#)
2009

Anthrax, bovine - USA (03): (TX), cervid [20090817.2910](#)
Anthrax, bovine - USA (02): (TX) [20090815.2894](#)
2008

Anthrax, caprine - USA: (TX) (02) A4 GENOTYPE [20080502.1514](#)
Anthrax, caprine - USA (TX) [20080404.1234](#)
2007

Anthrax, livestock - USA (TX): equine [20070815.2661](#)
Anthrax, bovine, wildlife - USA (TX) [20070713.2246](#)
2006

Anthrax, bovine - USA (TX) (02) [20060922.2705](#)
Anthrax, bovine - USA (TX) [20060921.2699](#)
Anthrax, deer - USA (TX) (03): bull affected [20060726.2057](#)
Anthrax, deer - USA (TX) (02): susp. [20060720.1994](#)
Anthrax, deer - USA (TX) [20060710.1891](#)
2005

Anthrax, cervidae, livestock - USA (TX) [20050709.1944](#)
2004

Anthrax, bovine, deer - USA (TX) (02) [20040829.2415](#)
Anthrax, bovine, deer - USA (TX) [20040812.2231](#)

.....mhj/mj/sh

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